



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

22 FEBRUARY 2017

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Whittier – Gang Member Accused of Killing Officer Had Cycled In and Out of Jail

(U) The gang member accused of killing a Whittier police officer Monday has cycled in and out of jail for repeatedly violating the terms of his release, records show. The suspect was identified as Michael C. Mejia, 26, a career criminal with a history of drugs and violence, according to an L.A. County Sheriff's Department official. Court records show that Mejia was sentenced in 2010 to four years in state prison for robbery and was convicted in July 2014 of grand theft auto and attempting to steal a vehicle. He was given another two-year sentence for being a gang member. Mejia has been arrested and jailed for short stints several times since July, and officials said he was on probation and under the supervision of the L.A. County Probation Department.

SOURCE: 21 February 2017, [Los Angeles Times](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – Over 200 Protesters Indicted on Rioting Charges from Inauguration Day

(U) Washington – Over 200 people have been indicted on felony rioting charges in connection with the Inauguration Day protests in downtown Washington. Protesters turned violent when black-clad anti-fascist protesters smashed storefronts and bus stops, hammered out windows in vehicles, and eventually launched rocks at a police. A District of Columbia grand jury charged five individuals in addition to 209 other defendants who have also been indicted on rioting charges. The indictment accuses the defendants of using a tactic called "Black Bloc" in which people conceal their identities with dark or black clothing accessories such as scarves, sunglasses, helmets, and masks.

SOURCE: 22 February 2017, [CNN](#)

(U) District of Columbia – US Homeland Security Employees Locked Out of Computer Networks

(U) Washington – Some US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) employees in the Washington area and Philadelphia were unable to access agency computer networks on Tuesday. It was not clear how widespread the issue was or how significantly it affected daily operations at DHS. Officials at DHS have confirmed a network outage temporarily affected four US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) facilities in the Washington area due to an expired DHS certificate. One source characterized the issue as one stemming from benign information technology missteps and a failure to ensure network redundancy. There is currently no evidence of foul play.

SOURCE: 21 February 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) Missouri – Missouri Man Charged with Terrorism Related Offenses

(U) Kansas City – A Missouri man has been arrested after saying he wanted to participate in a Presidents Day terrorist attack on buses, trains, and a train station in Kansas City, according to federal officials. The Justice Department said that Robert Lorenzo Hester Jr., a 25-year-old US citizen from Columbia, Missouri, was charged in a criminal complaint with attempting to provide material support to ISIS. Hester was charged in federal court based on his role in making preparations to launch a terrorist attack with persons he believed were associated with ISIS, who were actually undercover law enforcement

personnel, according to the Justice Department.
SOURCE: 21 February 2017, [CBS News](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Denmark – Danes Fighting for ISIS Were Paid Welfare Benefits, Government Says

(U) Copenhagen – The Danish government has been inadvertently paying benefits to citizens fighting for ISIS in Syria, according to Danish officials. About 145 Danes have traveled to Syria or Iraq to fight for militant groups since 2012, according to the Danish security and intelligence services. News reports last year reported that more than two dozen Danish citizens receiving unemployment benefits had travelled to Syria to fight for ISIS, even though the law requires recipients to live in Denmark. Officials this week have again identified a number of other Danish citizens who have been receiving disability pensions while in Syria fighting for ISIS.

SOURCE: 21 February 2017, [New York Times](#)

(U) Iraq – Use of Weaponized Drones by ISIS Spurs Terrorism Fears

(U) Mosul – Late last month ISIS fighters used a small drone equipped with a bomb tucked in the fuselage to attack an Iraqi army outpost. The incident was among dozens in recent weeks in a rapidly accelerating campaign of armed drone strikes by ISIS in northern Iraq. The terrorist group last month formally announced the establishment of a new “Unmanned Aircraft of the Mujahideen” unit, a fleet of modified drones equipped with bombs. The unit has claimed that its drones have killed or wounded 39 Iraqi soldiers in a single week. While the casualty claim is almost certainly exaggerated, US officials confirm that the terrorist group appears to have crossed a threshold with its use of unmanned aircraft.

SOURCE: 21 February 2017, [Washington Post](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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